**Old Mandovi Bridge**

3764. SHRI HARISH PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tempo of construction work on the old Mandovi bridge in Goa is very slow;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the bridge is completed by June, 1992 positively; and

(c) the total amount paid to the constructor as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Due to difficult work of demolition of old superstructure and extra work on investigation and strengthening of foundations, the progress of work was slow in the past. The progress has improved now. The State PWD and the contractor have been instructed to ensure completion of the bridge at the earliest.

(c) Upto November 1991, the total amount paid to the contractor is Rs. 494.97 lakhs.

**Nationalisation of Jute Industry**

3756. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been no sizable expansion or modernisation of jute industry in West Bengal despite abundant supply of raw jute available in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal has been pressing for nationalisation of the jute industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 31.91 crore had been disbursed to 13 jute mills up till 15.11.91 from the Jute Modernisation Fund.

(c) and (d). Government are of the view that take-over/nationalisation is not solution to the problem of sickness and Government will not, as a rule, intervene in such cases. Government have taken several measures for the revival of sick mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund for restructuring the jute economy, enactment of mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains, sugar, cement and urea grant of financial support for R & D activities and product diversification programmes, regular purchase of B. Twill bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing facilities of excise exemption, concessional import duty, marking support etc. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce remedial, preventive and ameliorative steps for the revival of sick industrial companies.

**Indo-EEC trade**

3766. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various issues relating to Indo-EEC trade deliberated at the 7th Meetings of the Indo-Ec Joint Commission held in New Delhi during the last month; and

(b) how far it succeeded to focus the question of market access for Indian products covering Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) and anti-dumping trade promotion programme and new perspectives in co-operation including industrial co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). In Indo-EC Joint Commission held in New Delhi on 13th and 14th November, 1991 reviewed the progress in the field of economic cooperation, relating to rade promotion programmes, standards, quality testing and certification, setting up of the Technology Information Centre and the Joint Business Forum besides examining the ongoing activities for business to business cooperation into he sectors of industrial design, machine tools, medical and surgical equipment etc. Indo-EC collaborations in the area of energy, electronics, telecommunications, science and technology and dairy development (Operation Flood) were also reviewed and potential areas for possible future cooperation such as tourism, fisheries and environment identified. The Joint Commission also discussed the implications, the facilities of the EC International Investment Partner Scheme for promoting foreign direct investment in India.

. During deliberations of the Joint Commission, the Indian Government reiterated its concern with market access and raised the issue of additional product coverage and improvement in the EC GSP Scheme. The question of rules of origin affecting India's exports and the nned for exclusion of small suppliers from anti dumping action and establishment of an effective consultative mechanism before commencement of anti dumping proceeding was also highlighted by the Indian side. In addition, enhancement into he bilateral quota for 1992 for exports of textile products under the extended Multi Fibre Agreement protocol was also emphasised. The European Community took note of India's concern.

[*Translation*]

**Construction of Bridge on National Highway No. 3 near Chhonda**

3767. SHRI BARELAL JATAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7044 on September 13, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the technical details for construction of new bridge across the river on national Highway No. 3 near Chhonda in Morena district have since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in finalising the technical details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Full information/data for finalising technical details are awaited from the State Government.

[*English*]

**Overdues and depreciation on Government investment for Nationalised Banks**

3768. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount of overdues and depreciation on the Government investment for all nationalised banks during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91?